

Tom Barrett Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE

Health Department

Administration

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653

phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990 web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

Media Advisory April 4, 2012 Media Contact:
Brandy Gillery (business hours):
414-286-3970
Anna Benton (after hours):
414-397-1620

City of Milwaukee Officials Investigating Salmonella Outbreak

The City of Milwaukee Health Department is collaborating with state and national public health agencies to investigate a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* serotype Bareilly infections.

As of April 4, 2012, 8 cases of *Salmonella* Bareilly infection matching the outbreak strain had been reported among Wisconsin residents since February. All 8 cases are adults, 3 of which reside in Milwaukee County. All 8 have recovered from their infection, although 3 Wisconsinites did require hospitalization.

City of Milwaukee Health Department staff are supporting the national investigation by interviewing patients regarding their food history and other exposures, and collecting information to aid in the national effort to identify the source or sources of this outbreak.

This investigation is ongoing, and updates will be provided to the public as more information becomes available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a web page for this outbreak. It can be accessed at: http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/bareilly-04-12/index.html.

Consumers are not being advised to avoid any specific foods or restaurants at this time. If a specific food source is identified for this outbreak, public health officials will alert the public and take further steps to prevent additional illnesses.

Most persons infected with Salmonella develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12–72 hours after infection. Infection is usually diagnosed by culture of a stool sample. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, but severe infections may occur. Infants, elderly persons, and those with impaired immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe illness.

Although most people recover without treatment, persons who think they might have become ill from eating a potentially contaminated food product should consult their health care providers, both to guard against severe illness, and to assist in the investigation of this outbreak.

As always, careful hand-washing after using the bathroom and before and after food preparation is strongly recommended.